



Tapu!tea

...ina ia manino le folauga.

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2005

OFFICIAL AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

No.32



GOVERNOR TOGIOLA TULAFONO PARTICIPATES IN U.S. CORAL REEF TASK FORCE MEETING IN KOROR, PALAU

Governor Togiola Tulafono continued to be one of the most visible leaders in coral reef conservation efforts through his active participation in the bi-annual United States Coral Reef Task Force meeting, held in the Republic of Palau November 4-7, 2005.

In his presentation to the Task Force, the Governor highlighted the recent finalization and implementation of the Territorial Coral Reef Monitoring Program, American Samoa's on-going efforts to address the impacts of global climate change and population pressure, and the need to create more opportunities for building local capacity.

The Governor recognized and thanked the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the support provided through its Coral Reef Management Fellowship Program. The Governor also continued to seek assistance in developing the Territorial Marine Laboratory, a project central to the Territory's efforts to understand and effectively manage our marine resources.

In a presentation to the Task Force on coral resilience in American Samoa, expert Chuck Birkland credited the Governor for his foresight and leadership in addressing the issue of population growth.

The Governor came to appreciate Palau's extensive conservation efforts during a private tour of the Rock Islands Marine Park. He would like to see American Samoa adopt some of these successful measures, acknowledging the importance of environmental conservation for the promotion of tourism in the Territory.

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\$5,000.00 REWARD

A reward of \$5,000.00 is being offered by the National Oceanic atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for information leading to the arrest of person(s) responsible for dynamite fishing in the Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Dynamite fishing is illegally. The blasting coral in the marine protected area and poses a risk to marine life.

**If you have information, call: NOAA's law
Enforcement Office at 633-7628**

A Special Message from the Commissioner of Public Safety, PC Sotoa M. S. Savali

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, PC Sotoa M. S. Savali, today expressed his heartfelt appreciation to the people of the Territory for their continued support of law enforcement officers.

"Police officers put their lives on the line everyday and it is inspiring to know that the public continues to place their trust and confidence in our efforts to enforce the law and protect the lives of our citizens," said Commissioner Sotoa. "This year, the department has overcome many challenges and I firmly believe that much of our success is directly attributable to the prayers and well wishes of our people."

Commissioner Sotoa further commends the hard work and dedication of law enforcement officers. Speaking fondly of police officers, the Commissioner stated, "The job of an officer has little reward." "With minimal compensation, they leave their homes everyday and avail themselves to the dangers and hazards of this line of work. But it is their love for law enforcement, and their desire to keep the public safe that drives them. They deserve more."

Commissioner Sotoa also pleaded with the public for their continued cooperation during the holiday season. "We are once again into the time of year when we congregate to celebrate. Despite this festive period, it is also a time when the likelihood of danger is at its highest. I ask that, especially during this time of year, the general public make extra sure to be safe."

"On behalf of the Department of Public Safety, I wish the people of American Samoa a merry and safe Christmas, and a blessed and prosperous New Year," Commissioner Sotoa concluded.

email: tapuitea@amsamoa.gov.as

Tapuitema: Ina ia manino le folauga

NEW TRACKING ANTENNAS FOR KVZK

By David B. Musick; Ass't. Chief Engineer

KVZK has recently seen the installation of two new satellite dishes in conjunction with damages incurred from cyclone Heta. The two Patriot 6.3 meter tracking antennas were installed by California based Allen Communications Inc. with the assistance of local contractor Paramount Builders.

The new antennas are solidly built, and while they won't improve the lack of TV programs being b Eamed to our region, they will help to pickup what is there, and assure better reception during times of inclement weather.

The antennas, which have been in the procurement process for two years, could not have arrived at a better time, as the old antennas that weren't destroyed by the hurricane are falling apart. The staff of OPI/KVZK wishes to thank FEMA and TOFR for their assessment and cooperation in the antenna replacement project.

This is also a good time to note that KVZK's director, Paolo Sivia Sivia is working hard to assure that the station's digital TV sets and converter boxes imported to the territory. When these begin arriving we will know more. Stay tuned!

KVZK is also working to improve reception on Manu'a and Aunu'u. Although there have been several delays in procuring the replacement translator antennas, also destroyed by storm winds, they are now said to "on the way". It is our hope to have these installed in time for Christmas!

Improvement in reception is also underway for all KVZK viewers as the air conditioning system on Mt. Alava is improved to properly cool the transmission equipment. We are presently running our transmitters at half their rated power because of lack of cooling capacity. The situation has been addressed, and the bidding process has been started to design and implement proper cooling. Once this happens, viewers with week reception will notice improvements as we begin broadcasting at full power.

Once again I would like to call attention to our director, who has take these and many other unseen projects seriously, so that our service to the public may not only be maintained, but improved on a continuing basis.



KVZK TV's two newly installed tracking antennas.

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorenson

Historian - Office of the Governor

On November 27, 1901, Commander Benjamin Franklin Tilley completed his term as American Samoa's first naval governor.

On November 27, 1901, Captain Uriel Sebree took office as American Samoa's second naval governor (until December 16, 1902).

On November 26, 1901, Captain Uriel Sebree, Commandant, U.S. Naval Station Tutuila, ordered that three principal roads, "suitable to native needs," be built without delay.

On November 27, 1906, Commander Charles Brainard Taylor Moore, Governor of American Samoa, issued his "Regulation No. 10-1906: Copra Receipts." (This was subsequently amended by Commander John Martin Poyer on April 17, 1917).

On November 27, 1940, the auxiliary ship USS *Bear* (AG29), visited American Samoa. Philatelic covers with "**PAGO PAGO / SAMOA**" in the killer bars were postmarked aboard the ship.

On November 27, 1957, Western Samoa's new Legislative Assembly met for the first time.

On November 28, 1897, William and Llewella Churchill left Honolulu for Washington, D.C., after William was sacked as U.S. Consul in Apia.

On November 28, 1907, the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila's station ship, USS *Annapolis*, "with Commander Charles Brainard Taylor Moore, United States Navy, Governor of Tutuila, in command, left the Naval Station, Tutuila, for Papeete, Tahiti..." to observe the total eclipse of the sun on January 3, 1908 "...at Flint Island, longitude 151degrees 48' W., latitude 11degrees 26' S." An "eclipse party" from the Lick Observatory (in Santa Cruz, California) was on board, assisted by Assistant Astronomer Benjamin Boss.

On November 28, 1918, Western Samoa's Administrator, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Logan of the New Zealand Army, angry because of American Samoa's quarantine of all ships (to guard against the worldwide outbreak of Spanish influenza) ordered that all wireless communications with American Samoa be cut. Because of Logan's actions, Western Samoa received no medical aid from American Samoa during the pandemic, although American Samoa's governor, Commander John Martin Poyer, had offered to send help.

On November 28, 1952, James Arthur Ewing took office as American Samoa's third appointed civil governor (until March 4, 1953).

On November 29, 1940, Admiral Harold Raynsford Stark, Chief of Naval Operations, directed that U.S. Marine Corps Captain Alfred R. Pefley's plan for the defense of Tutuila be implemented immediately.

On November 29, 1970, His Holiness Pope Paul VI visited Western Samoa and later American Samoa, thus becoming the only Pontiff to visit Samoa. (1a. Heslin 1995: vii; 1h. WSFDC 11/29/1970)

On November 30, 1942, the enlisted strength of the First Samoan Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve was listed as 473.

On December 1, 1910, the Governor of American Samoa, Commander William Michael Crose, issued his "Regulation No. 3-1910," which amended Commandant Benjamin Tilley's "Regulation No. 11-1900: Licenses, Etc., for Firearms."

On December 1, 1938, the Hepburn Report recommended the development of Guam, Hawaii (mainly Pearl Harbor), Midway, Wake, Johnston and Palmyra islands as major air and sea bases. Also recommended for development for "tender-based patrol plane operations" was Rose Atoll (in addition to Johnston, Palmyra and Canton Islands).

On December 1, 1942, World War I ace Captain Eddie Rickenbacker left Tutuila, where he was treated for malnutrition and dehydration at "MOB 3," and had regained twenty of the forty pounds that he lost while adrift in a raft after his plane crashed near Funafuti in the Ellice Islands.

(more Historical Notes on page 4)

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Email your name, department, current email address and the new email address you want to tapuitema@amsamoa.gov.as

AIRPORT TERMINAL RENOVATIONS COMPLETED

Airport Manager, Taleni Aumoeualogo, reported that some major renovations and improvements within the Airport Terminal have recently been completed. One of the most notable, as you pull up to the unloading area, is the beautiful landscaping work, between the check-in area and the Airport shops. According to Mr. Aumoeualogo, the landscaping work was performed by Airport employees on a voluntary basis. And he is highly appreciative of the hard work they have done to help beautify the Airport. Another improvement as you approach the check-in area is the absence of the TSA Inspection stations. The check-in counters have been moved up and the TSA Inspections stations have been relocated behind the new counters. This change will provide more space for the travelers and help expedite the check-in process.

The Samoan Fale has received a complete facelift and has once again become an attraction showcasing this rare cultural workmanship. Just opposite the Samoan Fale is the recently completed concourse area where travelers and families can sit and enjoy the airport scenery while awaiting their flights. Another recently completed project which can be view from the concourse area is the new VIP arrival area canopy. The new canopy was specifically designed to be consistent with the design of the other Terminal buildings. *(continued on page 4)*



Airport Guest House

Arts Council's Christmas Program

Arts Council Director, Leala Elisara, wishes to inform the general public that the Arts Council's annual Christmas program this year is scheduled for December 18th, 19th and 20th, following the ASG Christmas program that same week. "The program this year will not only focus on the celebration of Christmas, but the appreciation of the Art of Music," says the Director.

"The Committee's task of selecting groups to perform gets difficult every year because of the tremendous musical talent displayed by the many groups who auditioned," the Director said, "I am just amazed at the talent that's out there."

"We are quite excited with this year's lineup. Thirty-six (36) groups have been selected to perform; consisting of choirs from 6 schools, numerous youth groups from various denominations, church choirs and some private groups. The majority of the groups have participated in past programs, but I am happy to say that we have several first time performers in this year's program," reported Director Elisara.

"On behalf of the Arts Council, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the various groups and individuals who continue to support our programs throughout the year, and wish the people and Government of American Samoa a joyous and safe holiday season," Director Leala Elisara said.

Updates from the Port:

The Director of Port Administration, Fofo Tony Tuitele, is in Honolulu to meet with Army Corp of Engineers representatives to finalize details for the repairs and improvements of the Ta'u and Ofu wharfs. The costs for the projects will be shared by the American Samoa Government and the Army Corp of Engineers. A portion of the local share will be funded by FEMA as some of the repairs were disaster related. The Container yard construction project is 100% complete and has been closed out. The design phase for the tugboat wharf has been awarded to BECA, an engineering firm from New Zealand. Construction for this project should begin in May 2006. An Environmental Assessment on the Manu'a airports is currently being conducted by a company from Cincinnati, Ohio by the name of Landrum and Brown. "This will be completed soon," reported Chris King, Deputy Director of Port Admin.

ASG RADIO PROGRAM

with
Governor Togiola
Tulafono
Saturdays @ 7a.m.
On: Showers of Blessings
FM 104.7
Call 699-8123 or 699-8124

Tapuitea Newsletter

Call: 633-4116 ext. 234
Or 733-1041
Email: tapuitea@amsamoa.gov.as
Deadline for submissions
is Thursday @ noon.

Airport Renovations *(from page 3)*

In addition, arriving passengers are being processed in a newly painted and improved arrival terminal. As for departing travelers, the Airport Manager asks your indulgence for just a while longer as they complete the finishing touches to the departure area. Work on the new renovations is expected to be completed any day now. The departure area is being completely enclosed with a brand new central air-conditioning system installed. New comfortable seats are also being installed in the waiting area. "Departing travelers will have a cool and comfortable waiting area to relax while waiting for their flights," says the Airport Manager. Mr. Aumoeualo, on behalf of the Director of Port Administration, wishes to thank the general public for your patience and understanding, and for any inconvenience, and the Contractors and all those who were involved in the renovations for all their hard work.



New VIP arrival area canopy

More Historical Notes

by Stan Sorenson

On December 1, 1943, the Supply Officer of the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila "was made responsible for furnishing supplies to all Naval bases in the Samoan Defense Area. The bases which were included in the Samoan Defense Area at this time were Funafuti, Nanumea, Nukufetau, Upolu, Wallis and Tutuila."

On December 1, 1944, "there were 18 Navy; 13 Marines; and 82 New Zealand personnel on the island of Upolu."

On December 2, 1899, a tripartite convention met in Washington, D.C. to finalize the agreement which partitioned Samoa, and was signed aboard USS *Badger* in Apia Harbor on November 14, 1899.

On December 2, 1901, the United States Department of the Navy ruled that "(a) The occupancy of Tutuila is quite distinct from the sovereignty exercised at Porto [sic] Rico, Hawaii and Guam. (b) It is not foreign but domestic territory. (c) Samoans are not 'citizens of the United States,' but owe allegiance to the flag."

On December 2, 1902, on Tutuila, the U.S. Government purchased "Parcel No. 15: Leone Tract," totalling 0.09 acres, from the Paul H. Krause Estate for \$255.73, and "Parcel No. 16: Misataia" totalling 0.99 acres, from the same Grantor for \$189.26.

On December 3, 1873, Australian writer and adventurer Louis Becke was sent by Mrs. Macfarland, owner of the store in Apia where he worked as a clerk, "to deliver a worm-eaten ketch, the *E.A. Williams*, to Captain ["Bully"] Hayes, who was waiting in the Marshalls, where he had cooked up a shady deal to hoodwink an unsuspecting native chief by palming off the worthless ketch for good money."

On December 3, 1894, Robert Louis Stevenson died of a cerebral hemorrhage "on a cot, in the hall" at his home "Vailima," in Western Samoa. At the time of his death, he was assisting his wife Fanny by making mayonnaise for the forthcoming meal.

U. S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting

(continued from page 1)

Several decisions resulted from the meeting, including the following of which have particular relevance for American Samoa:

- Changes were made to the eligibility requirements of the Sunia Award, which provides selected students with the opportunity to work in the NOAA or DOI headquarters for 3 months, covering travel, living allowance, and stipend. This outstanding opportunity is now open to students currently enrolled in two or four year marine science, policy, or management degree programs. Applications for this program will be due early next year. For more information, visit the U. S. Coral Reef Task Force website (<http://www.coralreef.gov/announcements/index.html>) or contact Christianera Tuitele, Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Governor's Coral Reef Advisory Group at 633-5155.
- The Task Force affirmed support for continued implementation of the 3 year Local Action Strategies to address priority threats to coral reefs.
- A workshop to increase understanding of the tools and needs for responding to major injury events in coral reef areas will be planned for 2006.
- The Task Force called on its members to increase efforts to build enforcement capacity, and charged the Steering Committee with the development of an "enforcement toolbox" in cooperation with the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) to help coral reef management communities build enforcement capacity.
- A workshop to provide information on federal grants and other opportunities to support conservation of coral reef ecosystems is to be held in the Pacific region in 2006.

During the event, the Governor had the opportunity to meet privately with both co-chairs of the Task Force, Timothy Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, NOAA and David Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife. Among the topics of discussion was American Samoa's appeal of FEMA's decision not to support the assessment of damage to the coral reef resources resulting from Cyclone Olaf through the activation of Emergency Support Function 11 in the National Response Plan. The Governor also met with congressional staff Allen Stayman and Josh Johnson of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to discuss Section 936.

The next meeting of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force is tentatively scheduled to be held in Washington D.C. in the first week in May 2006.